

**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed April 19, 2004 indicates that the preliminary and second preliminary amendments received on April 10, 2003 are non-compliant with 37 C.F.R. 1.121.

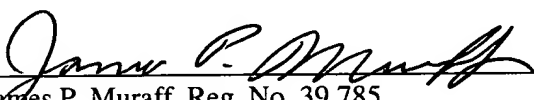
Confirming a recent telephone conference with the Examiner, Applicants respectfully note that the Revised Amendment Practice set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.121 took effect on July 30, 2003. The preliminary amendment and the second preliminary amendment were submitted on March 28, 2003 and April 4, 2003, respectively, several months prior to the effective date of July 30, 2003 for the Revised Amendment Practice.

Applicants believe that the preliminary amendment and the second preliminary amendment, as submitted, are in compliance with the amendment practice in effect at the time of such submissions. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered as submitted.

The undersigned attorney requests the Examiner to contact him if he has any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 19, 2004

By:   
James P. Muraff, Reg. No. 39,785  
Wallenstein Wagner & Rockey, Ltd.  
311 South Wacker Drive, 53rd Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6630  
312.554.3300

---

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service with first class postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 19, 2004.

  
Gillian Gardner/201078